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of course he is the head of a department; he engineers the relations of the institution with countless outside associations; he flatteringly entertains distinguished visitors; he is dispatched by the president to the State Capitol to lobby for appropriations, or to the metropolis to sound out wealthy donors. And through it all he remains a cheerful optimist, hail-fellow-well-met, one-hundred-per-cent American.

"Is it any wonder that the honors of deanship and presidency infallibly seek him out?"

MAX MCCONN, in *The Nation*.

MR. FORDNEY MAKES A DISCOVERY.—"The Automobile Commissioners missed it. The war taxers let it pass. Even the Agricultural Bloc did not see it. But Chairman Fordney is overlooking nothing. He not only found it, but discovered in the good old Reconstruction days the way to handle it.

"The book's the thing. Tax it. Relieve soda water by all means, but let not a reader of foreign print escape. That's luxury and he is to be scotched. It is all right for the wealthy connoisseur to have his object of art. The Custom House shall be wide open for him. It is all right, too, for the one who can travel abroad to stuff in his baggage the books he bought there. But the student, who must stay at home and be content with importing the volume that pictures the desired object, shall pay a duty of 20%, if Mr. Fordney has his way. He must have such ideas shaken out of his head and be put to work. Today's golden opportunity of securing European treasures must be forsworn.

"Too many foreigners have been coming in, everybody agrees. Mr. Fordney has his eye peeled for those that own books. The tariff framers of 1790 and all their successors have been mistaken in admitting without duty the immigrant's necessary household effects and reading material. Hereafter, if he is found to have a library worth \$250, he will pay for it, before he gets into this land of the free and home of the brave. He is the undesirable. None of these reading families for us. They are dangerous. University presidents will take notice and confine their appointments to local talent.

"And that reminds Mr. Fordney that these universities, colleges and public libraries have been buying entirely too many foreign books. Ever since 1816, they have been left to their own devices.

Now if they bring in more than two copies of a book, they shall pay the duty, sir. It makes no difference if they are supported by public taxation, and on slender resources engaged in the work of public education, enough is enough, and if these librarians intend to accommodate more than a couple of readers at a time with a stirring foreign book, they shall do so to their cost.

"Is this not the day of the Great Isolation? How are our own authors to get inspiration, if we do not shut out foreign contamination? Who knows how many Tennysons and Darwins we might have bred, if we had stayed away from the *Idylls of the King* and the *Origin of Species*? Let these foreigners keep to themselves and contemplate us at a respectful distance. When at length they have comprehended our excellences, they may knock at our door and offer proof. Till then, any American who holds commerce with them shall be fined for his effrontery. We will have none of their instruction.

"One thing will have to be admitted—Mr. Fordney is consistent. He lays about him without regard to party or precedent. Although books twenty years old were put upon the Free List in Grant's first term, and the rest of them, except those in English, by the McKinley Act of 1890, Mr. Fordney slaps the duty back upon these classes with as much gusto as he cancels Underwood's provision of duty-free textbooks for use in schools. And when it came to fixing the rate, he tramped all the way back to the Civil War and the mad Forties for a pattern.

"There was no use wasting time in a search for precedent over the world of today. It could not be found. The United Kingdom, France and Germany do not collect a penny on incoming books. Italy and Switzerland charge less than a half cent a pound or, say, a 2-cent postage stamp for a \$1.50 book. Canada's rate of 10% is of very restricted application, and Canada has just voted for reciprocity. The excuse for taxing knowledge lay nowhere at hand. There was but one thing to do—call off the argument and make it a fight. So up goes the bloody shirt of 1862 and the Tyler-Whig imbroglio.

"But all this may be imputing more heroism to Mr. Fordney than he possesses. Maybe it is only a case of blundering and not defiance. The sole public apologists for a general duty on books are the printing trades, and they have said that their object is not to discourage the importation of foreign books but to prevent Ameri-

can publishers from sending American books abroad to be made. Dr. Fordney's prescription is castor oil for the whole family and all the neighbors in order to get at the small boy's green apple.

"Whether the proposal to impede the spread of intelligence was born of callousness or confusion, organized Education, Art, Science and Scholarship have memorialized Congress in no uncertain terms, firmly convinced that with all eyes on Washington the Senate will not sanction a measure that would write us down as Barbarians."

Exchange.